

AMENDMENT

In the specification:

Please delete the first full paragraph on page 1, beginning with “The present invention claims the benefit”, and replace it with the following paragraph:

The present application is a continuation of co-pending U.S. Application Serial Number 09/765,068, filed on January 18, 2001 that claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Number 60/176,690 which was filed on January 18, 2000 and is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-3, entirely without prejudice and without disclaimer.

Please add new claims 4-7 as follows:

1-3. (cancelled)

4.(new) An expression vector comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 1.

5.(new) A cell comprising the expression vector of claim 4.

6.(new) A substantially isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

7. (new) A substantially isolated antibody having immunospecificity for the polypeptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.